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EDMUND DEACON, HENRY PETERSON, } EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER: NEUTRAL IN POLITICS.

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DEVOTED TO MORALITY, PURE LITERATURE, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC NEWS, AGRICULTURE, THE COMMERCIAL INTEREST, SCIENCE, ART AND AMUSEMENT.

VOLUME XXVIII. PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1849. WHOLE NO. 1433.

Choice Poetry.

THE WINTER BIRD.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, BY EMMALINE EVANS.

The winter bird sung in the storm,
'Mid the swirling winds and rain,
He clung to the edge of the elm thicket,
And chanced my search of pain.

Like unwound to me like the starry day,
'Tis the winter bird woke his trumbler
Against my window pane,
Where the rain came streaming down,
As the sighing branches leaned amain,
I spied the songster brown.
With a trusting coo, but a gleaming eye,
His song rose clear, 'neath the storm's wild sky.

Bright thoughts of the sweet spring-time,
Oh, not one ray of my mind—
For the winter bird's song was sacred inter,
Pay parts of one perfect whole—
And I saw the sun shine on a leafy bower,
And shook the dew from the early flower.

All through that long dark day,
The hearty music did cheer,
I thought of the songster's lay,
And the shine grew bright once more.
When thy heart's deep fountains are darkly
at rest,
List! for the song of the winter bird!

December 30th, 1848.

THE DESERTED ROAD.

BY T. B. READ

Ancient road, that woeful deserted
Through the level of the vale,
Thou'rt not trodden on the crowded market
Like a stream without a sail.

Standing by thee, I look backward,
And, as in the light of dreams,
See the years ancestral and vanish,
Like the whirl-winds of autumn.

Here I stroll along the village
As in youth's departed years,
But I miss the crowded concludes,
And the driver's bright-berries—

Miss the crowd of jovial countenances
Filling benches at the wells,
Or the cheer voice from Corner,
And their orchestra of bells.

To the ear my way-side treats
Comes the sound of a funeral knell,
Where the gay shall sing,
Ringing, mournful, at the door.

While thrilled deserted tollman
Waiting for one who pass
Reads the melancholy story
In the thrilled mourning grass.

Ancient highway, thou art vanquished
The ancient of the vale
Cycle in thee, woe-smile,
Hesitation on the gate.

Thou art vanquished and neglected
For the good which thou hast done.
Trying to be more to be forgotten,
But I miss the crowded—

Miss the cheer voice from Corner,
Still I pray that my decease
May be through no vanish'd virtue,
And to leave a stain to thine.

Pictures of Life.

THE NIGHT WATCH. A TALE.

News, fitted to the night,
Black, fearful, comfortless and horrible.—*King John.*

On a cold December night, in the winter of 18—, four gentlemen were seated in the parlor of a member of an old gentleman in one of the crooked streets at the North End of Boston. This was in the former times the most fashionable part, the court end, as it were, of the town, and the house in which I spend the night was the residence of one of the old colonial governors, and has been traces of its former magnificence, now almost effaced by the ravages of time and neglect.

It was a dark and tempestuous night. The wind howled mournfully through the narrow streets and around the tall houses of the North End. The rain fell in occasional gusts, were almost wrapped their garments tighter about them, and hastened their footsteps to their destination.

Within doors the aspect of things was more cheerful. An old-fashioned wood fire burned brightly on the hearth, the heavy folds of the crimson curtains excluded every breath of cold air, and the social conversation of the gentlemen party were distributed through the apartment. The company, consisting of myself and three female friends, were drawn closely up to the cheerful blaze, apparently as comfortable as possible. The cause of our meeting there was that a neighbor, one Mr. Helger, had died very suddenly the day before. He had formerly been very wealthy, largely in trade, but meeting with reverses which soured his disposition, and cast a shade of gloom over his character, he had withdrawn entirely from the world, and lived all alone by himself in this large house. We, being neighbors, had called upon him in the course of the morning, and was the cause. The room in which we were had been the apartment of the deceased, and was fitted up with much taste, and even luxury, but all the rest of the house was bare and unfurnished, and was shunned by neighbors to be haunted. The corpse was placed in a room across the entry, so that we could hear a noise or disturbance if there should be any. Refreshments had been provided, and we had eaten, and were in the most sociable comfortable, and easiest conversation, and seldom ourselves until morning should relieve us from our watch.

The time flew by very quickly in pleasant chat, and when, during a lull of the storm, we heard the neighboring clocks on the steeples of the North Church strike the hour of twelve, we were all surprised at the lateness of the hour.

"I'm now the very weakest time of night,
When conscience is awake, and iniell breathes
On contagion to the world."

said I; "can't some of you ladies tell a genuine, old-fashioned ghost story to while away the solitudes? Surely, Mrs. Johnstone, you must know one; you always have plenty of interesting anecdotes."

The lady addressed thought a moment in silence, and then replied, "I will tell you a ghost story, and a true one, too, though for its reality for the incident happened to myself. It was a good many years ago, but it is as fresh in my memory as if it took place yesterday. A ghost-story, told by one of the actors in it, would not fail to be interesting; so we draw our chairs nearer the fire, surround a harrowing silence, and I thus begin:

"You must know, in the first place, that I was married at a very early age, and a year or two after, left my native town, Salem, to follow my husband to live in the interior of Vermont. The country was then settled at that time, being mostly covered with unbroken forests. I felt the change of situation very keenly. I had lived all my life in the midst of a large city, surrounded by a numerous family of brothers and sisters. We had gone into society a good deal, and had been in the habit of seeing many people, and engaging in all the amusements of the day. My present residence was in the midst of dense forests, the next neighbor lived ten miles off, and the nearest town was on the Connecticut, more than ten miles from our farm. The house stood on one corner of the clearing, not more than a hundred yards from the woods, through which, on snowy nights, the winds howled in a mournful and sad manner. In winter the deep snows cut off all communication with the other parts of the country, and sometimes we did not see a soul, for months. To this lonely spot I had removed, after having always been accustomed to the noise and bustle of a city, and it was not strange that it should seem gloomy to me.

"One day in autumn, in the month of November, I think it was, my husband told me that he was going to take his men and go over to the next town for some necessary articles, and he was afraid that he should not be able to get home that night. So away he went, and left me all alone in the house, with the exception of my infant child. I had brought a black woman with me from home, but the change of situation did not agree with her. She had been taken ill, and had died about a fortnight before the time of which I speak. On account of the difficulty of procuring servants, I had not been able to get another woman to supply her place, so I was entirely alone.

"After supper I sat by the kitchen fire some time, till at last I dropped asleep in my chair. I was awakened by the shrill sound of the tall, old-fashioned clock, striking the hour of ten. The candle had burnt low in its socket, and the expiring embers diffused a faint glow through the room. I jumped up, rubbed my eyes, and prepared to go to bed. I took the light and was leaving the room, when somebody knocked at the outside door of the house. I was a little startled at any one should knock at the door at that time of night, but presently I thought that my husband had changed his mind and returned home after all. I went and opened the door, but nobody was there. I shut the door, rather surprised, and sat down by the fire.

"To commence my story closely, you must know the area garment of the room in which I was. On one side was the door leading into the open air, on the opposite side the door leading to the parlors, etc. On the third side of the room was the fire-place, and on the fourth, the door of a bed-room, in which black Cato, my late lad slept, and where, as I have said, she died a fortnight before. This door was a little open. I went and shut it, and had hardly done so, when the knocking was repeated with startling distinctness, and a moment after I heard the door of the bed-room slowly open, and retreat. I was again in the door and look out, but, as before, I could see no one. I then shut the door of the bed-room and latched it fast. I began to grow frightened, for I could find no one who could have knocked at the door, nor could I account for the mysterious opening of the bed-room door. All the stories of ghosts and witches that I had ever heard came into my head, and hundreds of ungary horrors beside. I made up my mind, however, that it was all fancy that the knocking was real, and that I had heard through the fumes of the tall trees. To my excited fancy cried, they looked strangely and differently from the same appearance by day. The dim light of the waning moon, which was half occupied by the morning clouds that were rolling by, and the sound I saw something moving in the deep shadow of the trees. I shuddered and closed the door. I felt really sleeping in his side, but I was afraid to go to bed, for I knew that I should permit an evil spirit to work its will with me. I sat down by the fire, and tried to read, but my thoughts and amusement as that little child. I endeavored to calm my mind by the reflection that I had always treated the poor, wretched man with kindness, and if it was really her ghost that was haunting the house, it would not injure me. I was thus busy with my reflections, when I heard some one walking in the room above my head. I sprang up, and was about to rush out into the open air. No one was in sight. There was a storm coming up, and the wind howled mournfully through the branches

did not ask for it; Mr. Peachey pressed it upon him. Why, oh! why? to be done with it? Her face was of deadly paleness, and her lips quivered as the spider-like shape shot out its claw.

"Why, as for that, that one's no measure of value," the father answered. "Set down to-morrow, my dear. And mend it well, Mr. Peachey don't in any way fit visit till he comes." So saying, he left the room, and the house.

"What news, will you?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, in the passage. "Now, Mary, run and speak to the lawyer, man. This is not dinner, or my husband, which is the most shining, and must have the best cut off the cold joint. Mr. Peachey, you'll excuse me, I'm sure, go at once."

"Bella! Bella! woman!" said the boss, totally unnerved, "you seem to be in a pretty state of a tantrum—rest assured in this sea of yours!"

"What matter is it of mine! I don't see, Peachey don't in any way, I'll wait till he comes!"

United States SATURDAY POST.

Philadelphia:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1845.

BANK ROBBERY.

The Augusta Bank, at Augusta, Maine, was broken open at night, and bag after bag, and rolls of the following valuables packages: Thirteen square bags of silver, $500 each; six bags of silver, $200 to $300 each; package or bag of gold, $5,-412; package of specie, $1,500; package of silver, $1,000; packages of foreign bills, amount unknown, directed to J. C. Bowser, from Tiverton Bank.

A more definite statement than that given above, makes the loss of the Bank $21,262 in Specie, of which about $9,000 was silver, besides foreign bills, amounting to about $4,000, belonging to the Augusta Bank, and $8,000 in silver, principally belonging to the Tiverton Bank.

The Augusta Age says: "The Augusta Bank is situated in the basement of the new hotel which forms part of a brick block recently erected on Water street. The hotel is unfinished and uncompleted. The vault of the Bank adjoins one of the lower rooms of the hotel, and is entered through it by a brick wall one foot thick. The mortar was not dry at the time of the visit of the robbers subsequently met with. Thomas Metcalf United States, 4th of March last. He is Mr. Crittenden.

LEGISLATURE

has been elected Speaker Parker, (Democrat) by ...rson vote, Speaker of petitions have been pre... and has been reported... ...portance has yet been ... D. S. Senator ... the members.

...the special election held ... the choice of ... was as follows: King ... District; no election in ... (Penn Hall) defeated by ... Allen (Free Soil) re... by Allen; hundred ... Ninth District.

...TATION TO LOAFERS.—... Court will meet on ... December, in London, in the ... the estate of Queen ... General Taylor, ex... ...three clients.

arkets.

...IA MARKETS.

...Thursday, Jan. 16, 1845.

...There has been a moderate ... and we have to note ... has been obtained—sales ... 50,000 a 50,500 bbls. ... ...ces range from $5.50 to ... ...ly. Rye Flour continues ... ...ason.—The demand has ... 2,000 bbls at $5.62½@5.75

...last three years

1843	7-16
44,256	30,773
1844	7-16
268,451	208,000

...of Wheat continues depressed; ...ers have been dispersed, ...d good sales, mostly at ...

...Rye—The dealers are ... ...ing to the Canal, and ... ...has been in fair demand ... ...ed and Timothy—Seed ... ...ecord—week's sales 30,000 ... ...ushels at 37½c for Southern ... for Southern.

...Provisions—Pork very ... ...ly, at a sale of Mess at $15 ... ...ey are scarce, and the ... ...y esteemed, and the inac... ...ly of Lard, together with ... ...equent, with sales at Sole... ...ly, with the only ... ...ly.

...Whiskey—No purchases ... ...to be reported ... ...is demand at $67 and $68 ... ...ls, but little demand; 1,000 ... ...ght at $67 ... ...ly small sales ... ...ket three years

	36,751
	70,104
	25,000

...of Specie at Natchez ... ...and Dust at 16c.

...Anthracite are very moderate ... ...ly confined to the ... ...continue limited, without ...

...t been manufactured in the ... ...ast three years

1842	43,622
1843	47,000
1844	48,000

...of Shooting at 31c.

...The market continues in ... ...ly at former prices.

...from Boston during the ... ...9,021 pkgs, worth $6,000.

...ales of Wheaten at 33c/35c

...not supplied, but the de... ...ly limited, at former ... ...prices.

...ported for eight years

1844	bbls. 56,181
1843	94,651
1842	75,837
1841	35,000

...ere is no moderate request, ...ers for medium. To for bar... ...Domestic Fruits the sup... ...ket continues light, with ... ...ening at the highest prices. ...ged at a full price.

...On the 5th, a great variety of petitions were presented by Senators, and after being read, were appropriately referred.

...Agreeably to notice, Mr. Dix asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill to authorize a subscription for the improvement of the harbor of New York. It was read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

...Mr. Bedford also obtained leave to bring in a bill granting a reservation of land to the State of Alabama, for the being road now in progress at that time, it was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

...Mr. Atchison, agreeably to notice, asked and obtained leave to bring in a bill making a donation of land to the right of way for a railroad in Missouri. It was read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

...A number of unimportant reports were made by the Standing Committees.

...Objections were made to the Resolution of Inquiry, offered on the 4th instant by Mr. Allen, calling upon the President for any correspondence that may have been entered into, in relation to the purchase of Texas by England.

...Mr. Miller spoke briefly on the subject, when Mr. Rusk put the question, "Will the Senate reconsider the existence of such correspondence?"

...Mr. Miller—"I do."

...Mr. Foster—"If negotiations are going on, will the Senator oppose the annexation of Cuba?"

...Mr. Miller—"I will, under all circumstances, and on all occasions."

...Mr. Foote—"The Senator will then be in an awkward position to oppose the wishes of Gen. Taylor in decidedly in favor of the annexation of Cuba."

...A motion was then made by Mr. Rusk to lay the resolution upon the table. The motion was objected to, but the Senate refused to reconsider the question, and the resolution was taken up by a vote of ayes 24, nays 19.

...On motion the Senate then went into Executive Session.

...On the 8th, Mr. Houston, of Texas, offered a resolution for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the expediency of the Government taking a railroad for military purposes between the San Francisco, California, to Mississippi. Lies on the table.

...Mr. Hale presented a petition against the extension of slavery by the annexation of Texas, and asking slavery and the slave trade wherever Congress has the jurisdiction to be put down.

...Mr. Hale moved to receive the petition and refer the same to the Committee on the District of Columbia, with instructions to report a bill abolishing slavery and the slave trade in the said District.

...Mr. King of Ala. objected, and the motion of reception on the table.

...Various petitions of order were then discussed with considerable warmth. A vote was finally taken on Mr. King's motion, which stood yeas twenty-five, nays nineteen.

...Mr. Corwin, of Ohio, offered a similar petition to that of Mr. Hale.

...The question of reception was again raised, which resulted in laying it on the table.

...Mr. Hale reintroduced a joint resolution, directing the President to purchase a suitable vessel to be possessed in the nearest safe subject of Mexico Kingdom. Referred to the Military Committee.

...The bill previously reported relative to a system of reciprocal trade with Canada, next came up for consideration.

...Mr. Dix having stated the objects contemplated to be secured by the passage of the bill, spoke briefly but earnestly in its favor.

...Mr. Pearce said that he could not see things in the same light as his honorable friend from New York, and he therefore felt it to be his duty to oppose the passage of the bill. The advantages to be gained by the bill, were, he thought, all on the side of the Canadas. The United States would not receive a sufficient equivalent for the concessions asked.

...Mr. Hunter opposed the passage of the bill—the reasons were that its contents could not be ascertained, and while they were exceedingly injurious to the agricultural interests of the country, they were on an intricate question, involving the manufacturing interests; and, therefore, no measure could or should receive his support that would elevate one particular interest of the country at the expense of another.

...Mr. Niles advocated the bill briefly but earnestly.

...Mr. Phelps offered an amendment, to include in the bill all manufactures of cotton, leather and wool.

...Mr. Westcott, after a few remarks, announced his intention to vote for the bill.

...Mr. Dawson, of Georgia, said that the Constitution enjoined that equal duties should be imposed on all the States. The practical operations of the bill before the Senate could not be mistaken. Under this bill there would be free trade at the North, while the same trade would be taxed at the South. Under these circumstances, he felt it to be his imperative duty to vote against its passage.

...Mr. Metcalf said that the bill was partial, secret, and local, in its character, and he should vote against it. He opposed to all legislation of this kind. He concluded his remarks by moving to lay the bill on the table.

...Mr. Dix said that he was desirous of answering the objections of the opponents of the bill, and the bill was therefore passed over informally.

...After the transaction of some unimportant business, the Senate took up the bill providing for a Board of Commissioners for the settlement of private claims, in which Mr. Pettit offered an amendment to the 1st sec. of the bill, which, after discussion, opposed the bill earnestly, the House adjourned.

...On the 6th, the Speaker, alluded in the vote that has been given on Monday, on the bill in favor of compensation to Antonio Pacheco, for a slave killed during the Florida war. He said that two errors had been made by the Clerk in classifying the vote, and that the true vote stands 83 yeas to 89 nays.

...Mr. Fairfield rose to a question of privilege, and said that he voted "aye" on the bill, but that it was not recorded.

...The Clerk was directed to record Mr. Farrelly's vote among the nays, and the vote was then announced as 83 yeas to 90 nays.

...Great excitement followed this announcement, and motions of the most conflicting character were offered in rapid succession.

...Mr. Sawyer moved to reconsider.

...Mr. Collamer was desirous that the question should be debated.

...Mr. Winthrop, Mr. Rhett and Mr. Toombs interrupted the Speaker, in regard to the proper course to be pursued, and the Speaker, in a very excited position over this, losing private bill day.

...Mr. Sawyer offered a motion instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill for reclaiming slaves escaping into free States.

...Mr. Sawyer moved to reconsider for the purpose of considering this resolution. A vote was taken which resulted, yeas 87, nays 87. So the motion was lost.

...Whereupon the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of taking up the bill providing for the establishment of a Board of Commissioners to settle private claims against the Government.

...Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, opposed the resolution in a short but forcible speech, in which he referred to the public money, for which the people would hold their representatives to the strictest account.

...Mr. Rockwell, of Connecticut, moved that the Committee rise, which was carried, and the House went into the House again.

...Mr. Smith, from the Committee on Territories, reported a bill relative to the establishment of a government in New Mexico.

...Mr. Rice spoke briefly on the bill on the table, and the usual number of copies ordered to be printed for the use of the House.

...Mr. Pillsbury, of Texas, on the part of the Committee on Territories, presented a protest against the dismemberment of Texas, which would be the case should the House pass the bill for the admission of Texas.

...The House then took up Mr. Greeley's resolution, previously offered, calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury relative to information in regard to the duties imposed upon woollens, blankets, &c.

...A motion was made to lay the resolution on the table.

...The question was taken by yeas and nays, and decided in the negative. Yeas 86; nays 87.

...A motion was made that the resolution be considered to be read, but he did not desire to charge the Clerk of the House.

...The resolution was therefore under consideration.

...Mr. Tomlin made some remarks, in which he expressed himself opposed to the resolution, and moved to refer the same to a Select Committee.

...Mr. Charles J. Ingersoll, of Pennsylvania, on the other hand, as he considered the message one of the oldest documents that ever emanated from the Executive Department.

...Mr. Vinton addressed the House earnestly against the doctrines set forth in the message, and the grounds assumed by the President. Briefly, but clearly, he gave a history of the various contributions imposed during the late war with Mexico. He said that the President has transcended his authority in the course he has pursued to these contributions, if he had not authorized them.

...He was interrupted in the course of his remarks by Mr. Ingersoll.

...Mr. Settle followed, approving of the views of Mr. Vinton, and thanking him for the able speech he had delivered. He was glad to see that the official reporter with severe and insurrection; but so far as he was able to observe, their reports were an accurate and faithful representation of the Athenaeum, he said, ought to be made for the ordinary consideration which is paid to the messages of a party of the day.

...On the 9th, a great variety of petitions were presented by Senators, and after being read, were appropriately referred.

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...Mr. Foote—"The Senator will then be in an awkward position to oppose the wishes of Gen. Taylor is decidedly in favor of the annexation of Cuba."

...A motion was then made by Mr. Rusk to lay the resolution upon the table. The motion was objected to, but the Senate refused to reconsider the question, and the resolution was taken up by a vote of yeas

Selected Poetry.

A MEMORY.

Shorty Asbee the money cadger
(Ow the thronged and noisy town)
Stands and watches for a dodger
And the crowds always it bounce!
Yet Asbee is a famous mendor, lightly
In the busted and dyspeptic,
And his notes were never protested
Till he answered at Joseph.

He has stood from the darkness
Starting through the long evening
For a town extra printed second,
Till a thing in Asbee and pasty
For a bill figured in gladness
Or a thing in Asbee would be thankful—
Nothing with an eager welcome,
Nothing with a greeting smile.

Many now has shook in passing
Asbee's hand and shut away
And her heart on them well by—
Oh! the memory of those days!
As a door, dear Asbee, closed
Swiftly as a dream it flies!
Only the memory of words has been,
Sighing with such memories sigh.

He saw her on those of vertigo,
Wrinkling for her hand to weave
For the form she awoke so vainly,
Dreaming within the crowd of days,
And the eyes have not so dying,
Sad in closing, sweet in dying.

LINES,

TO

[illegible] MOTHER'S GRAVE.

The hour is come—the church'd hour,
When from the busy world are free,
And all in sunlight and in flower
And come to silent thought on thee.

And, oh! I have passed an hour from self,
Though mixed with sin, and with guilt,
Our minds for sufferance thought are fill—
Our eyes yet seek the silent tomb.

Composition from the death's of sorrow
The deepest over reality dwells,
But when we move subdued by thee,
Sweetness is on Death's spell.

Thou'rt better than the world away held
My mother! thoughts more hallowed dwell,
And the smooth of beauty.

Thoughtless years, wherever be thy,
Though flesh of air be pictured rare,
Still, pride, when daylight does say,
Thou'rt better than the world away.

So, at this calm, this silent hour,
To win the duty seems to me
My heart (its joyless wand'rings o'er)
Kneels—mother's still to thee.

Sketches of Travel.

CATACOMBS OF PARIS.

The origin of the great catacombs, or rocky, under for the dead, attached to the French capital, is in every point of view curious and interesting. Previously to the close of the last century, the burial-places of the city were in a condition of more disgusting and fearful nature to human health. One of the early French Kings had bestowed a piece of the royal gardens and grounds of the hôtel-dieu as a place of interment, and this spot, the nine subsequently of the Church of the Innocents, continued for nine or ten centuries to answer the sole or principal receptacle for the dead in Paris. Not only was this the case, but the cemetery was also applied in its purpose in a manner reasonably dangerous. Large pits were dug, and filled about thirty feet deep and twenty feet square, and into these coffins were lowered, one tier above another, without any interposing earth, until the pits were filled. Each was then covered with a thin layer of soil.—The consumer of bodies must this every generation, amounted in from twelve to fifteen hundred; and, in the thirty years preceding 1780, nearly ninety thousand bodies had been thus deposited in the charnel-houses of the Innocents. Does it every thirty or forty years, it had been customary to exercise the frightful task of opening and emptying these pits; but in the case of great numbers of the older ones, this task had long ceased to be fulfilled, and they accordingly remained loaded, crammed, as shocked up with the matter of corruption even to rise above the level of the adjoining street, and seriously to affect the air in the greater parts of the houses. It was supposed that, from the time of Philip Augustus, no fewer than 1,500,000 bodies in all, had been interred in the cemetery of the Innocents, and as the mouldering human, when the pits were cleared out, were merely conveyed to an arched gallery surrounding the burial-ground, it is evident that some portion of all that had ever been there still remained.

When all sort of common and sense were beginning to recognise the necessity of remedying this evil, another source of peril and alarm showed itself within the city of Paris; but, fortunately the one was found capable of serving as a remedy for the other. Quarries of stone had been opened in the immediate vicinity of Paris, at an early period of its history, and been worked wrongly, to a large extent in the course of successive ages, to supply materials for the increasing city. In consequence of these excavations, a dismal among the inhabitants, that the city was occasionally undermined. Little attention was paid to the matter till 1774, when some alarming stocks and lails of houses aroused the fears of the government. A regular survey took place, and the result was the frightful discovery, that the churches, palaces, and the whole remainder of the city of Paris, rested upon immense irregular caverns, and stood the greatest risk ere long sinking into them. A special commission was immediately appointed to take the proper step; for security such a commission was made as to almost